



RULES AND REGULATIONS **of the** **MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

ARTICLE XIII CONTINUING EDUCATION

SECTION 13.1: CONTINUING EDUCATION. Section 73-31-9 (4) of the Mississippi Code of 1972 established that license renewal in odd numbered years requires the psychologist to show evidence of a minimum of twenty (20) clock hours of continuing education activities approved by the Board during the two year period of time ending on June 30 of the odd numbered year. The Board shall follow the guidelines below in administering this requirement.

SECTION 13.2: MINIMUM CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT. Psychologists shall document successful completion of twenty (20) clock hours of acceptable continuing education during each biennial period. Continuing education activity is reportable only in clock hours

- a. A minimum of two (2) of these twenty (20) clock hours of continuing education must involve topics in professional ethics or legal issues in the delivery of psychological services.

SECTION 13.3: CRITERIA OF ACCEPTABILITY. Continuing Education encompasses a wide range of training designed to provide or update knowledge and skills. Acceptable continuing education activities are defined as: (a) formally organized and planned instructional experiences offered by an American Psychological Association (APA) approved or Board approved provider, with objectives compatible with the professional continuing education needs of practicing psychologists; or (b) for registered attendance at psychological or inter-professional conferences or conventions as described in 13.3(b)

- a. The Board establishes no limit on the number of clock hours that may be applied toward satisfying the continuing education requirement during a biennium for activities offered

by APA approved sponsors or Board approved providers. These APA credit hours may include home study activities.

- b. For registered attendance at psychological or inter-professional conferences or training programs not offered by APA or Board approved providers, but directly related to the practice of psychology and lasting one full day or longer, the Board will accept three (3) clock hours for each such conference or training program. During a biennium the Board will accept a maximum of twelve (12) clock hours from such conferences or training programs toward satisfying the continuing education requirement. Such credit requires no advance approval and shall not duplicate hours earned under Subparagraph (a) above.

SECTION 13.4: CRITERIA FOR BOARD APPROVED CE PROVIDERS. The Mississippi Psychological Association, internship and fellowship training programs with APA approval and graduate training departments of psychology with APA accredited training programs are eligible to apply for Board Approved CE Provider status. The application process, status determination and review procedures are stated in the Mississippi Board of Psychology Continuing Education Handbook. All APA approved CE sponsors are considered Board Approved CE Providers. Approved providers must submit to the Board a list of CE activities they have sponsored on an annual basis. Board Approved CE providers must renew their provider status every five (5) years.

SECTION 13.5: REPORT REQUIREMENTS. Biennial Reporting Period. Licensees must report their continuing education hours to the Board no later than July 1 of odd-numbered years.

- a. Report Format. A section of the license renewal form, on the CE reporting biennium, shall provide an attestation of completion of the required type and number of hours of continuing education as described above.
- b. Signature. By signing the biennial Continuing Professional Education (CE) Reporting Form, the licensee signifies that the required CE has been obtained.
- c. Documentation. Licensees shall retain corroborating documentation of their continuing education participation. Corroborative documents include certificates of completion which include a statement of APA- or Board-approved provider, receipt of registered attendance or roster of attendance at professional conferences, or other unequivocally clear evidence of the number of hours of CE and provider status. Although corroborating documentation is not routinely required as part of the licensee's submission, the Board may, at its discretion, request such documentation. In addition, the Board will perform a random audit of no less than 5% of the Psychologists' CE submissions. Any misrepresentation of continuing education will be cause for disciplinary action by the Board.

SECTION 13.6: EXEMPTIONS. Newly licensed psychologists are considered to have satisfied continuing education requirements for the remainder of the fiscal year in which their license is granted. Therefore, if the subsequent year (July 1-June 31) is a CE reporting year, the

newly licensed psychologist shall be required to submit only half the number of hours (10) specified in Section 13.2 a and b, above.

- a. Continuing education activities that are not provided by APA or Board approved providers will be accepted only if:
 1. A written request for approval is made prior to the scheduled program:
 2. The request is received in sufficient time for the Board to review the program for content and appropriateness: and
 3. They have objectives compatible with the professional continuing education needs of practicing psychologists
- b. In extenuating circumstances the Board may consider granting an extension of the deadline for completion of the required continuing education if a plan for compliance is submitted in writing prior to the deadline.
- c. CE activities which are not provided by APA or Board approved providers, regardless of their quality or appropriateness will not be accepted after the fact and will not count toward the required 20 hours in the reporting period.

SECTION 13.7: NONCOMPLIANCE AND REINSTATEMENT. Noncompliance shall include, failure to sign the attestation statement on the Continuing Professional Education (CE) Reporting Form, failure to file a report on time, failure to provide documentation requested for audit, or failure to report a sufficient number of acceptable continuing education clock hours as defined above.

- a. Notice of Noncompliance. The Board shall serve written notice of noncompliance on a psychologist determined to be in noncompliance. The notice will invite the psychologist to request a hearing with the Board or its representative to outline a plan of compliance or to show compliance. All hearings shall be scheduled within thirty (30) days of the date of notice of noncompliance or at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. Failure to fulfill the requirements of the continuing education rule, may, at the discretion of the Board, result in disciplinary action.